of certain parts of the income for the purpose of ascertaining that the prizes are worthily awarded:

> This might be justifiable if the money were spent for this purpose. If the committees used the laboratories and libraries they have established out of the Nobel fund for the purpose of testing the real value of alleged inventions it would do much to promote science and assist in the discovery of struggling genius. But no man is allowed to present his own claims. He must first have the endorsement of scholars occupying certain narrowly specified official positions in his own land.

It would be interesting to know how much the writer of this article referred to knows about the work done at the Nobel Institutes, whether this is done for the purpose indicated or not. It is evident how unpractical it would be if each man presented his own claims to a discovery, and the committee on awards had to test in each case the actual value of the claims. It would be equally interesting to know what method of selection the writer of the article referred to would suggest. To persons with ordinary intelligence it seems fairly evident that the foremost specialists in each country are the best judges as to discoveries in their own line, let it be that these specialists may occupy "certain narrowly specified official positions" only, and do not represent the general public. A popular vote would hardly be the correct method for judging the value of scientific discoveries or achievements in literature.

It must be remembered in regard to the Nobel Institutes that they are not by any means reserved for Swedes, as is often claimed. Paragraph 12 of the Code of Statutes provides that "the adjudicating corporations are at liberty to appoint foreigners, either men or women, to positions at the Nobel Institutes." Of the more than thirty prizes so far distributed only one has been awarded a Swede, and there is no man who could raise any objection in that case. One prize has been given a Norwegian, and this was done not on account of love or relationship, as any one conversant with Scandinavian politics can testify. One prize was awarded a Dane, whose discovery was generally recognized as fully meriting this encouragement. All the other prize-winners have been non-Scandinavians. One American has received a prize so far, and it was not given him on account of nationality, but for his personal accomplishments in the line in which he received a prize.[1]

It can not rightly be claimed that parts of the Nobel funds have been diverted for local purposes, as the institutes are in every way of the most international nature, as all science should be. When the writer in *The Popular Science Monthly* makes the statement that the Nobel Institutes "have been founded in dishonor" he is going too far, and by such an unverified accusation he certainly does himself no credit.

I have repeatedly been approached by countrymen on this side of the Atlantic to reply to some of these attempts at discrediting not only our foremost Swedish scientific institutions, but the Swedish government and nation which have sanctioned the actions of the administrators of the Nobel Fund. I have hesitated to do so, but a recent letter received from a university in the United States brought up the question again, and the new awards of prizes that will be made to-day, on the anniversary of the death of Dr. Alfred Nobel, will probably cause a renewed outburst of comments from newspapers and others. It is well that at least American scientists hear the other view of this question.

Pehr Olsson-Seffer

Mexico City,
December 10, 1907

UNIVERSITY REGISTRATION

To the Editor of Science: In connection with the university registration statistics published in the issue of November 29, I wish to call your attention to the following corrections:

The students of the University of California credited to commerce and architecture constitute a group of students who at other insti-

[1] The recent award of the prize in physics to Professor A. A. Michelson, of Chicago, is further evidence that those concerned in the distribution of the prizes are recognizing true merit, without considering nationality.—P. O.-S.

tutions would probably be classified as students in liberal arts with their major subjects in political science or architecture. On the other hand, Stanford, which was given fourth place in the number of academic students, makes no distinction in its returns between academic students and students in applied science. The men in the undergraduate schools of this institution are very largely registered for major work in the departments of applied science, just as they are at the University of California and at other western institutions.

In the case of Indiana University, the figures for 1902–03 as reported by the registrar's office include all students enrolled in the university from November to November, thus including in each case two freshmen classes. For the years following 1903 the figures include the enrollment from the beginning of the summer term in June to November of the same year, and do not include the new enrollment between November and the following June. Accordingly, the totals for 1902–03 are much too large and the totals for the following years are too small. The actual total enrollments for the university are as follows:

1901–1902	1,285
1902–1903	1,469
1903–1904	1,418
1904–1905	1,538
1905–1906	1,684
1906–1907	1,821

RUDOLF TOMBO, JR.,
Registrar
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

ANOTHER FLEA REMEDY

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: Anent the communication from Dr. L. O. Howard in your issue of November 29, the following preventive, which insures a comfortable night's rest in spite of the proximity of fleas, may be of interest. In sleeping in farmhouses and country hotels in western Oregon, where there was not only a reason to suspect the presence of fleas, but where their presence had been demonstrated beyond question, I secured immunity by pouring a little camphor in solution in the palm of my hand, and rubbing limbs and body with the same. This method is, I believe, in quite general use in infested regions by travelers who have not reached the climax of indifference enjoyed by the natives.

F. L. WASHBURN
MINNESOTA EXPERIMENT STATION,
December 5, 1907

SPECIAL ARTICLES

THE FOSSIL SAWFLY PERGA COLORADENSIS

IN SCIENCE of October 4, p. 446, I recorded a large fossil sawfly from Florissant, apparently referable to the Australian genus *Perga*. In the course of unpacking the Florissant materials, the reverse impression, which I had not seen before, has come to light. It shows certain parts of the wing not clearly visible in the original, and enables me to see that there is a lanceolate cell, traversed by a cross-nervure, after the manner of *Cimbex*. As the marginal cell has no trace of a cross-nervure, wherein it agrees with *Perga* and not with *Cimbex*, the insect finds no place among modern sawfly genera, and may be placed in a new genus *Phenacoperga*.

Phenacoperga coloradensis differs from *Cimbex* not only in the character just mentioned, but in the position of the cross-nervure of the lanceolate cell, which has retreated far toward the base of the wing, so that it is more than twice as distant from the apex of the lanceolate cell as from the base of the wing. This may probably be regarded as a step toward the condition in *Perga*, where the cross-nervure may be considered to have retreated to the very base, and the lower side of the cell then to have failed.

The new genus appears to confirm Konow's classification, wherein *Cimbex* and *Perga* are associated in the same subfamily. According to his system, it would form a new tribe between the Syzygoniides and Cimbicides.

I will take this occasion to refer to *Atocus defessus* Scudder, another extinct genus of sawflies from Florissant. According to Scudder's figure, the insect appears to be anomalous from the total absence of any subcostal nervure. I recently examined the type at Cambridge, and can affirm that the subcostal is